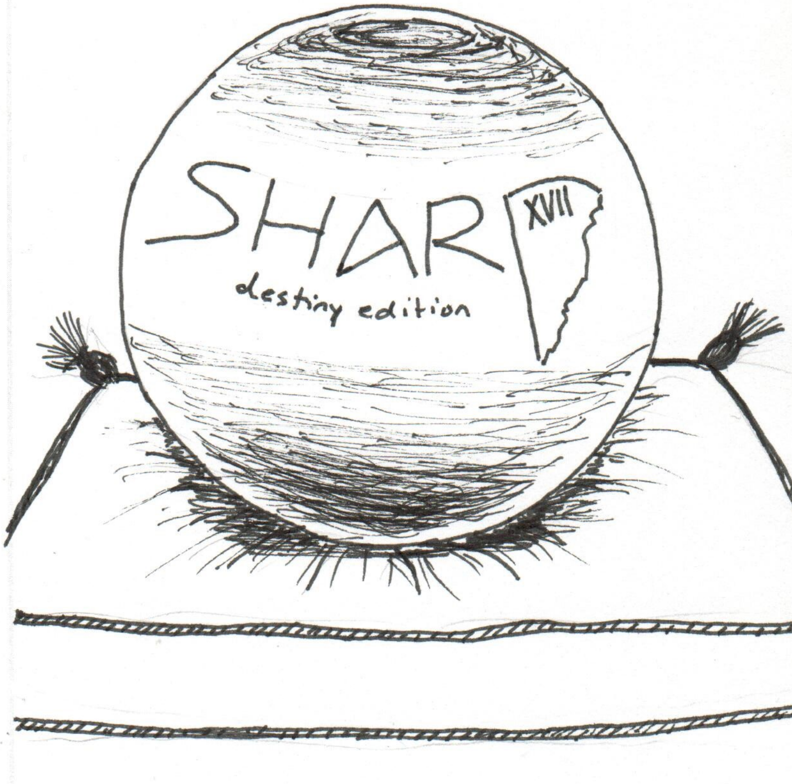
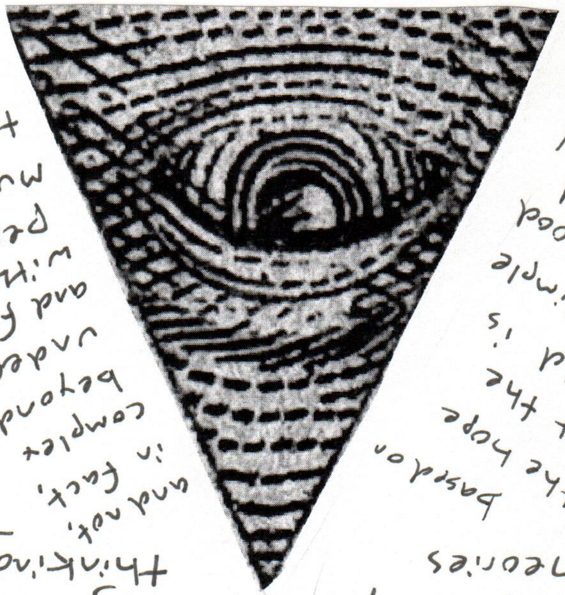


Some find a sort of refuge in conspiracy or magical theories thinking



based on the hope that the world is as simple as good and evil forces

and not, in fact, complex beyond understanding and filled with people muddling through.

they become easy prey for sociopaths.

Yes, our existing order all too often fails us - it's a reflection of us, of our biases, our shortsightedness.

It will always be imperfect.

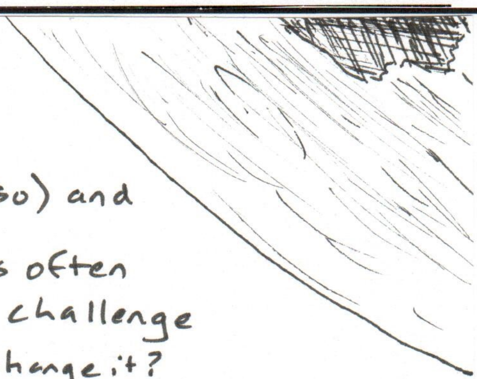
But people like us created it, and people like us can change it, or create something new.

Imagine
something
- better -

instead of
fearing
something
- worse -

Thomas Vose CC-BY-NC 8-1-23
trvose@hotmail.com

The world is big, and complicated (unfathomably so) and scary - enduring it is often enough of a challenge (trying to change it? Unthinkable.)



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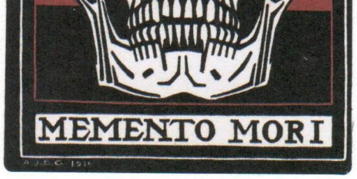
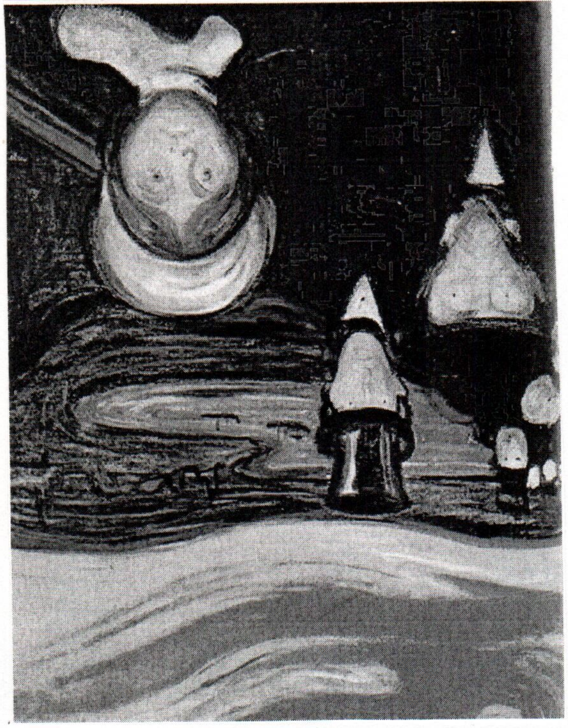


And meanwhile this reality looms uncomfortably in the backs of our minds.

WE ALL REACT TO THIS DIFFERENTLY

Some BECOME (paranoid)



"Anxiety", Edvard Munch, 1894

There's a twisted comfort in thinking you're important enough that people want to "get" you.

Aren't you sick of passively accepting a bad situation too?

Right now, the world needs...

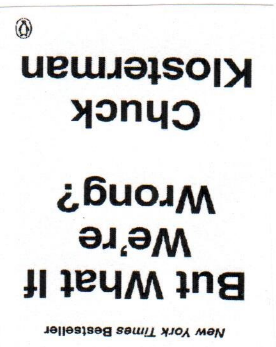
- Experimentation
- Ideas
- Creativity
- Lateral thinking
- Risk

DETERMINATION

The future cannot be known,
only guessed at -
and truly transformative things
are often impossible to predict -
they meet the needs of a
moment we are not part of.

Some have quietly happened
already, and their effects
won't be clear for years.

(You should read
this, by the
way)



New York Times Bestseller

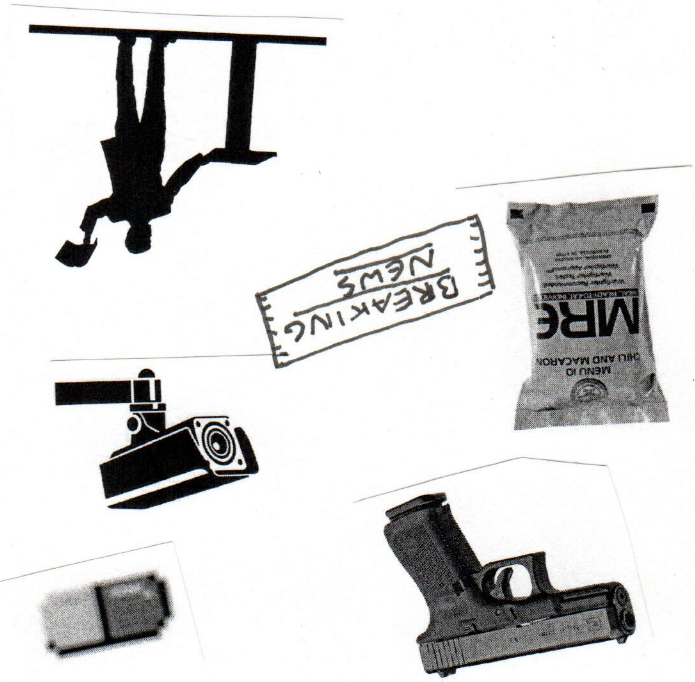
But What If We're Wrong?

Chuck Klosterman

A certain level
of intellectual
humility is
essential.

And I, for one,
am tired of
lawyers,
economists,
and insurance
companies
making our decisions for us -
effectively governing
what we are
and aren't
willing to do.

our fear gives others **power.**
entire industries feed on it.


MENU 10
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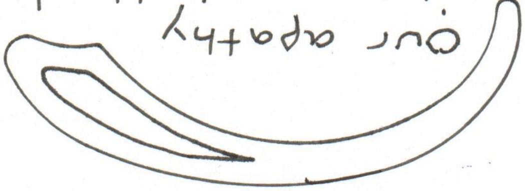
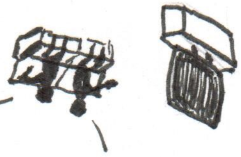
BREAKING NEWS

and **grifters** and **demagogues**
prey on the vulnerable to
enrich themselves.

But portraying certain things as
INEVITABLE
suits the interests that control
them just fine.



Our apathy
is money in the bank.


They'll figure it out.
I guess that's just how it is.

We cannot give in to

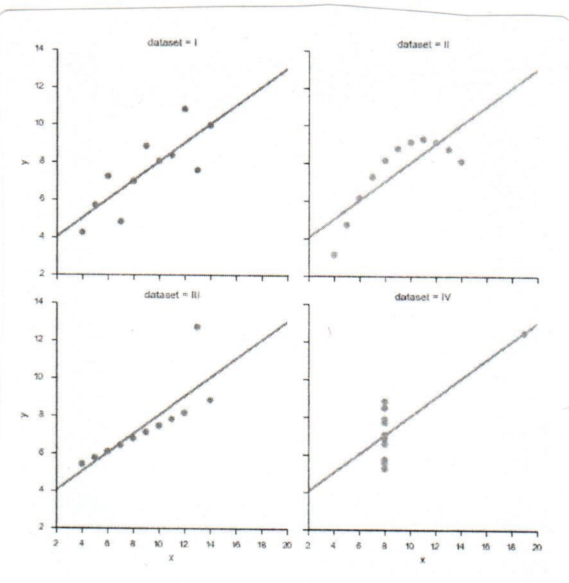
learned helplessness

or surrender our individual

Agency

and some of us give in
to cynicism,
to fatalism,
to quiet despair.

We have a tendency to think that the way things are now are the way they're going to be going forward - and trends now will be extrapolated indefinitely.



"Anscombe's quartet" - extrapolating is hard.

And we as a species are bad at calculating risk.

"Hauntology" is a word that defines the remnants of failed futures we imagined once upon a time.

- Fascist treatises on eugenics
- Decimal time calendars from the French Revolution
- Esperanto dictionaries
- Cold War bunkers stocked for WWIII
- Painfully ugly Brutalist architecture
- Age of Aquarius memorabilia from the '60s
- The proud proclamations in Communist countries about the imminent death of capitalism
- The last few rail cars from the Red Line of LA
- The airship moorings on the Empire State Building

So how much of this received wisdom will go the same way?

- ChatGPT is the future of humanity
- Society is on the verge of collapse, so get to preppin
- Technology will save us from climate change
- The corporations will inherit the Earth
- We will make the planet unlivable
- Our future will be in virtual reality
- Cryptocurrency will replace everything
- Inequality will continue to grow

Nothing is inevitable.